

Chairwoman Carri Jones – Chairwoman, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe:

In a series of firsts, 33-year-old Carri Jones was elected Chairwoman of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe on June 12, 2012, becoming the first woman and youngest person to ever hold the position of Tribal Chair on the five-member Leech Lake Tribal Council.

Chairwoman Jones is an alumnus of the Bemidji State University (MN), where she majored in both Accounting and Business Administration (emphasis in finance) with a minor in Financial Fraud Examination. She is currently completing the Healthcare Administrative Master's Program with College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN.

Prior to holding public office Chairwoman Jones established a successful 12 year career in Tribal Government Administration, Finance, and Indian Gaming. She served as the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's controller of finance from 2005 – 2008. She also worked as the controller of finance for the Fond Du Lac Band's Black Bear Casino in 2009, ultimately returning to the controller position at Leech Lake in 2010.

As Chairwoman, Carri serves as the Chief Executive of the Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee (RBC), commonly referred to as the Leech Lake Reservation Tribal Council (RTC). The Tribal Council is the elected body of government responsible for managing the affairs of the Ojibwe at Leech Lake, which is a sovereign territory having its own distinct population and boundaries in north central Minnesota.

Chairwoman Jones' brings specific competencies to her role in tribal leadership. The knowledge and experience she has gained through education, and throughout her career, strengthen the capacity for conscious business decisions in both the council chambers, and while fulfilling the day to day responsibilities of her elected position, as required by Tribal Ordinance. (LLBO RBC Ordinance NO. 01-64., LLBO RTC Ordinance NO. 97-03.)

Chairwoman Jones also serves as a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's (MCT) Tribal Executive Committee (TEC). The MCT serves as a representative body comprised of six member reservations organized under the revised constitution and bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Chairwoman Jones also chairs the Leech Lake Tax and Gaming Commissions, which are units within the tribal government structure, that exercise the Band's sovereign authority within Leech Lake's territorial boundaries.

Other committees include: Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (Member), MCT Finance Committee (Member), Sanford Health Board of Directors, and the Midwest Indian Health-board (Member).

Associated Memberships include: Minnesota Indian Gaming Association (MIGA), National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA), National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce (MAICC) and the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST).